

A GREEK NECKLACE.

A Reminiscence of the Empire.

"Her Imperial Highness must have a parure," said Mme. De Pont-Valle, in the most positive of tones. "It is a serious question, for Her Majesty has become a trifle fastidious of late. Let me see what are our engagements for the month? To-day is the 15th. Grand reception to-morrow, and a crowd of people to be introduced. Is it 70 or 700 Americans? Not a serious affair. The diamonds and rubies will amply suffice. Nothing very important until the 20th. Then comes the visit to Fountainebleau, and the hunt. We state dinners, with torch-light procession on the last night, and the triumph, to conclude with a ball. Her Majesty will follow the chase, in her carriage, of course, and, as she will have some emotions, will feel fatigued, and undoubtedly will be pale. We never would repeat the diamonds and rubies. We want something more delicate, which will assort with her Majesty's complexion. The dress I have indicated is white, an undershirt of rose satin, with an occasional knot of tender-colored ribbon. We must resort (there can be no hesitation about it) to the Russian necklace with the whole set, the pearls and aquamarines. By the way, let me make a note here"—Mme. De Pont-Valle scribbled a line in her note-book—"that the jeweler be requested to look at these aquamarines. It is said that these people in cure the sickness in these stones, for, instead of being frankly blue, they have assumed of late a sickly greenish hue. So far so good. That brings us to the 27th. On the 27th, reception of the municipality at the Hotel de Ville, St. Denis, and St. Martin, and Mayors and deputies—not a very aristocratic affair, likely to be a perfect mob. Shall we have the emeralds and diamonds? They are, after all, impressive, are crushing in their effects, and will take the conceit out of some of those women, who have such shocking assumption. To think, of the way in which those vulgar upstart wives overload themselves with flattery! All this is easy sailing; it now comes the rub, the leading event of the month. Private reception, with, perhaps, a quadrille, and a waltz afterward, all the more difficult because we are not seen from afar, but with our usual condescension must be one of the actors. Now, Austria is sure to be here. I know all about it beforehand. Have 'mes informations.' It is to be a contest of simplicity, and Mme. De Metternich is determined to push it to the last extremity. We accept the challenge. But where does she invent her jewels? I must confess her taste is exquisite. There is no originality about it. Originally in dress must partake of the 'imprevu,' of the bizarre, and would attract the stares of the multitude, exactly something the Princess abhors. Of course, we can equal her in simplicity—giving a natural elegance and dignity, and supreme power of self-adornment as far as material and 'facon' goes, we have our little plans. But, after all, that an annoyance it is, to be forced to intrigue with modistes so that we may find out what our rival intends doing! am forced, like a General, to have my spies out on duty all the time. With this machiavellianism peculiar to these Austrians, the Princess is capable of having her toilet made in Vienna, and of passing her dresses through the Customs as if they were diplomatic secrets, all sealed up, or she might cloister and put under key her sewing woman in some back room of the Austria Hotel, so that no discoveries could be possible. After all, it is not the dress she might wear that gives me any uneasiness, for is not Paris that fountain-head from whence all elegance flows? We are supreme; we make the fashion, but it is the Metternich jewels—the ear-rings, the necklaces, the bracelets she wears. Of course, we can annihilate her with splendor, display, and intrinsic values, but there is a refinement about the Princess's jewelry which must stay us. We do not always possess. I think Her Imperial Highness deigned to acquire a certain bracelet. Mme. De Metternich wore the other day. It was a necklace for me; Her Majesty, with a plicity which does her credit, asked Princess who made it. It was something in the Renaissance manner, and as it was fashioned as it was boldly coned. "A lovely bracelet, Princess; I ask its origin?" inquired the Em-

personage during two showers without being wet. That story the Senator said he had never heard, and an amusing discussion took place, in which umbrellas were mentioned, which ended in the memoirs of the Italian being brought from the library, and, sure enough, there it was all printed pretty much as Mme. De Metternich had told it. Then she rattled away about the bracelet, offering to exchange it for a Norman peasant woman's cross, and it ended by her putting her bracelet in her pocket. An Austrian trick! But we understood it. There was a quiet little look of satisfaction about Her Majesty's which did not escape me. But what are we to do? Here is our necklace of antique cameos. We have put it on at no less than two private receptions, and the cameos are now quite threadbare. Oh! for a surprise of some kind! Jewelers have so little brains. It is the 'imprevu' I want. Who will help me? and saying this, the 'dame d'atour' of Her Imperial Highness Eugenie sank quite exhausted in her comfortable fauteuil.

Just then the servant entered and announced M. le Comte de Nerac. "Oh, my nephew! Let him come in. He might help me. He is a wise garçon, full of resources, given to rummage in the antiquary shops. Did he not find the Empress some Medicinal jewelry a year ago? Ah! Gaston, good morning. Is it because you are relieved from service that I have the pleasure of a visit so early in the day? I am glad of it, you see me, though, in a most unhappy state of mind."

"My dear aunt! Have pressing cares of state finally overcome your wonderful energy? A sudden meeting of Ministers will prevent the Emperor from riding out to-day, so his equerry is on foot. By the way, my dear little aunt, don't forget that I have a half promise from you about that English mount. I can't, you know, ride those same three horses for six long months, as I have been doing."

"Don't, pray, talk horse to me. I am annoyed half to death. Here is the Empress, who has an engagement for the 30th of the month."

"Oh, the private reception, 'mes intimes,' Austria, and all that."

"And Her Majesty has absolutely nothing to wear."

"Ah! a return then to the costume of the Directory—Mme. De Tallien, coturns, and all that kind of thing? We have been developing or undeveloping a great heat that way of late. Good."

"Nonsense. We are stripped bare of jewelry."

"You don't say so! and are shivering in the cold for want of a diamond. Have they robbed Her Majesty of the crown jewels? You could not find a Cardinal De Rohan, could you? He was a dull personage, it is true, but had proper inspirations in regard to diamonds."

"Pray, cease this persiflage. Once you helped us, and Her Majesty was grateful. Come, now, what is there rare and beautiful—something quite out of the ordinary in the way of jewelry—which might please the Empress? Remember that the caprices of a woman must be satisfied. Think."

"There are some Aztec things in gold—forms of lizards and alligators just arrived from South America. You might string a lot of them together."

"They would not do. They are only curious, not beautiful. You never could induce Her Majesty to wear such frights. What! the most beautiful neck in France to be converted into an archaeological museum? Think again."

"There are some North American parures—teeth and bear's claws, with little tufts of human hair elegantly interspersed here and there."

"Gaston, you are decidedly annoying. Her Majesty would scream with horror at the sight, much less the touch, of such brutal things. She is so sensitive. I am serious. It is an engagement between France and Austria, the Empress and the Madame De Metternich. I appeal to your patriotism. Think, now, if it were to give a moment's pleasure to one of your whims, you would find something or other, I am certain."

"But those whims—have no aspirations after impossibilities. A good set of jewelry—so that it has glitter—and represents a certain sum of money—and could be pledged for a thousand francs or so at the Mont de Piété—is all that these whims ask for."

"Come, Gaston, help an aunt who is devoted to you and your interests. That fourth horse might not then be so impossible."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

I am sure I hardly know, your Majesty. We have a great deal of such old knocking about Vienna. I think such a fright that it ought to be melted provided it is gold, of which fact I am not quite sure. Sometimes I fancy a lady exhales from it. My maid gives me the first thing she puts hand on. I never have the advantage of judicious selections."

Ah, Madame la Princesse," said one of her Senators—an Academician, who the finest collection of antique jewels France—such a beautiful arm as you would require no artistic aid to set it more ravishing, but her Majesty shown true appreciation of what is really a chef d'œuvre. That bracelet made by Benvenuto Cellini for a Duchess of Ferrara, and represents the latest bit of 'orfevrerie' that the Italian master ever made. Madame la Princesse's bracelet, which she ignores, is best piece of Renaissance work known."

"The bracelet had to be unclasped, and went the round of an admiring circle, who all expatiated over its beauty, the Princess, of course, insisting all the while that it was a horror, and that for the life of her she could not see what was to admire about it, but that she was really glad to know it was gold. She even pleaded ignorance as to who might be this Benvenuto Cellini, but then, when driven into a corner, she asked if he was not the man who, many centuries before, had advanced more recent meteorological discoveries, having fired off some cannon in order to cause a rain storm, so that certain royal personages should pay a visit to certain other royal

A worthy couple in Norristown have been wonderfully blessed either by an active Providence or an imaginative reporter. The husband is now in his eighty-third year, but is remarkably active. His sight remained good rather longer than is the case with most old men, but at length failed with all the phenomena usual in advancing life, and for sixteen years he was obliged to use glasses. At length he found great difficulty in obtaining spectacles to suit him. They seemed to hinder rather than help his sight, and to his own surprise, he found the power of his eyes returning. For several years he has discarded glasses altogether, and is now able to read the finest print used in daily newspapers with perfect ease. His wife is now in her seventy-seventh year. At about the usual age her teeth began to fail and she finally lost them all. In the summer of 1878 she began to be troubled with pain in the upper jaw and soon a full third set of teeth made their appearance. They grew to the usual size and have since remained firm and in good condition, but no new teeth appeared in the lower jaw.

While a toboggan party was in progress at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, Ont., recently, the Princess Louise was standing at the top of the slide just as a young lady was about to take a toboggan down. The young lady turned to the Princess and asked, pleasantly, "Will you go down with me?" and was met with a prompt refusal. A few moments later an attendant informed her that the Princess was not accustomed to be addressed so familiarly.

A WOMAN'S SCHEMES.

Nellie McPherson, a St. Joseph Female Detective, Runs in a Daring Criminal.

[Western (St. Joseph, Mo.) News.]

For the past three months Nellie McPherson, who has for some time been in the employ of the St. Joseph Commercial Detective Agency, has traveled through the West and Northwest on business connected with the agency here, and her success as a "spotter" shows her to be a remarkably shrewd woman. She is about thirty-two years old, tall and slender, with dark hair, piercing black eyes and altogether very stylish and attractive. Her latest exploit terminated in Chicago a day or two ago, when she succeeded in getting the clinkers on one of the deepest-dyed villains in the West, and the leader and accomplice of a gang of counterfeiters which have infested this section for the past two years.

Some months since the managers of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, the C. R. I. & P., the O. B. & Q., and the Chicago & Northern Railroads became cognizant of the fact that a great many bogus local tickets had been set afloat along their lines, and on application Detective Murray of Chicago was authorized to work up the job, and, if possible, bring the guilty parties to justice. He reported from time to time that no satisfactory trail of the counterfeiters could be struck, and finally Nellie McPherson was delegated to assist him in the work. From the onset she was suspicious of the detective himself, and for three months she watched him like a hawk, though pretending to fall desperately in love with him, and more than anxious that they should succeed in their undertaking, in order that they might raise a "stake," get married and settle down.

Sharp as he was, the woman fooled him. Last week the two spent several days in St. Joseph, and while Murray was "working" certain parts of the city, or pretending to be rather, Nellie was closeted in the office of her employers reporting progress, which to say the least was anything but favorable to the "detective"—her pretended lover, Mr. Murray. From St. Joseph they went to Chicago, where a few days secret investigation placed her in possession of a perfect whirlwind of evidence, and convinced her that "Detective" Murray was the very man who had set afloat the bogus railroad tickets. Then she set her trap, gave the detective an official surprise in his room at the hotel, and as a result he now plays checkers with his nose in a Chicago jail.

Freemasonry in Afghanistan.

[Boston Transcript.]

Freemasonry would appear to flourish even at the cannon's mouth. Shortly after the occupation of Cabul a warrant was granted for the opening of the Lodge Seaforth. Capt. Stewart Mackenzie of the Ninth Lancers being installed as first Master. The title of the lodge is given because the Earl of Seaforth is head of the Clan Mackenzie, to which the Captain belongs. Col. Noel Money of the Third Sikhs, who was present at the opening, is one of the most conspicuous Masons in India, having taken his thirty-third degree.

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Regulate the Liver and prevent Chills and Fever, Malarious Fevers, Bowel Complaints, Headaches, Jaundice and Nausea.

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PILES!

How many suffer torture day after day, making life a burden and robbing existence of all pleasure, owing to the secret suffering from Piles. Yet relief is ready to the hand of almost any one who will use systematically the remedy that has permanently cured thousands. Simmons' Liver Regulator is no drastic violent purge, but a gentle assistant to nature.

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SHOULD not be regarded as a trifling ailment—in fact, nature demands the utmost regularity of the bowels, and any deviation from this demand paves the way often to serious danger. It is quite as necessary to remove impure accumulations from the bowels as it is to eat or sleep, and no health can be expected where a costive habit of body prevails.

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This distressing affliction occurs most frequently. The disturbance of the stomach, arising from the imperfectly digested contents, causes a severe pain in the head, accompanied with disagreeable nausea, and this constitutes what is popularly known as Sick Headache.

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